

Nursing home hires consultant


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Short-term replacement for Genesis costs \$322K

By AARON ALDRIDGE
Staff Writer

Sullivan County Health Care has hired a new administrator to replace Scott Wojtkiewicz, who will be leaving when the contract with Genesis HealthCare expires at the end of this week.

David Laplante began his new job Monday as part of a major reorganization that includes a  **Unity** new director of nursing and two charge nurses.

Laplante works for Landmark Health Solutions of Haverhill, Mass., which is a consulting service very similar to Genesis.

According to Sullivan County Manager Ed Gil de Rubio, Landmark was hired to provide consulting services to the nursing home. The six-month agreement will pay Landmark \$10,000 per month which does not include the salaries for the four Landmark employees.

"They are paid by the hour," Gil de Rubio said.

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The total cost for Landmark's services will be about \$322,000 for the six-month contract. Genesis had requested \$450,000 to provide the very same services for an entire year.

Gil de Rubio has said he plans to use a consulting firm until an administrator can be hired as a county employee. There is no indication that

Landmark will be used in the long-term.

Genesis had provided administrative and nursing services for the nursing home since 2005. It was given a 30-day notice on June 13 that its management services would no longer be needed.

Laplante has been in the health care field for more than 30 years and has an extensive

background in skilled care.

Recently he was the administrator of the 184-bed Sweet Brook Transitional Care and Living Center in Williamstown, Mass., that provides hospice care, respite care and an Alzheimer's unit.

Aaron Aldridge can be reached at (800) 545-0347 ext. 139, or by e-mail at aaldridge@eagletimes.com.